



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XX Number 1

January-February 2016

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864 www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs

**Presentations Sponsored by
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation
Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint
(Across from County Courthouse)**

All meetings begin at **9:45** and are held at the Community Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Derek Antonelli

President,

Calypso Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society

**Rare Plant Conservation in
North Idaho**

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Molly McCahon

Lake Assist Coordinator

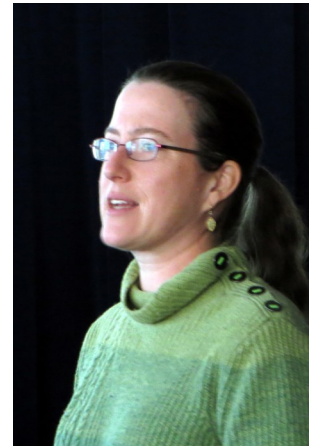
Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Native Plants—Keeping our Water Clean

November Program Summary

Progress Towards Treasured Landscapes: Whitebark Pine Restoration

On November 28, 2015, Jennifer Costich-Thompson, North Zone Botanist for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, gave an update on the Whitebark Pine (WBP) restoration project. WBP is a 5-needled, thin-barked, and stone seeded tree. Considered to be a Keystone species, it is dominant or co-dominant and early in succession. The bonsai-like form at maturity is testimony to its ability to survive harsh conditions such as cold and drought. WBP has a competitive advantage in seed dispersal with the help of Clark's Nutcrackers and squirrels. For suc-



(Continued on page 3)

* A friendly reminder: our membership year runs Jan. 1st through December 31st, so it is time to renew! Rates are listed below, and a handy form to accompany your check is available on our website (nativeplantsociety.org), which also provides a link to PayPal. All payments are used to benefit on-going activities of KNPS, such as the Arboretum (Coordinator in the summer, plants, tools, signs etc.). If it is comfortable, please consider renewing at a higher category, or making a donation.

* Checks should be mailed to KNPS, PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864. Thanks!!

* Membership Rates

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| * Individual | \$20 per year |
| * Household** | \$25 per year |
| * Student/Senior(65+) | \$15 per year |
| * Sustaining** | \$50 per year |
| * Patron** | \$100 per year |
| * Sponsor | \$50 per year |

* **These memberships are entitled to two votes

Committee Reports

Arboretum News

The Arboretum Committee is off duty until March when we will meet to decide what our goal will be for this next season. Fortunately the heavy wind storm did not do much damage to our trees.

If anyone is interested in helping at the Arboretum, they can email me at smchatburn@gmail.com

Conservation Committee

Several years ago KNPS representatives spent about a year participating in a Bonner County committee tasked with bringing community consensus to Title 12, a rule establishing shoreline protections designed to keep our streams, rivers and lakes clean and shorelines and depths hospitable to native vegetation. It appears that Bonner County Commissioners may be planning to soon undo these ordinances with only the minimum legal public notice.

One already-adopted rule change makes a number of structures buildable without location permits. Required setbacks can be thus ignored, Panhandle Health won't have the opportunity to keep septic tanks and drain fields clear, which can degrade water quality. Mistakes can be expensive for our native plant ecosystem and humans.

On a happier note, Derek Antonelli (our January speaker) has convened a North Idaho Rare Plant committee, preparing a list of plants of concern in our area to be presented at the Idaho Rare Plant Conference February 10-11 in Boise. Registration is open; so think about attending!

Want to learn more about anything in this report? Contact Molly; conservation@nativeplantsociety.org or 208-610-6642

Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee is off duty until spring. If anyone is interested in having their property evaluated or wish to serve on the committee, check out the KNPS website nativeplantsociety.org/landscape for additional information .

Grant Committee

The 2016 Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant has been awarded to support the Southside School's Stewards Project. Funds will be used to buy native trees and plants as well as to purchase materials to build native plant signs for the forested area behind Southside School.

As outlined in their application, their goals are to encourage students to become stewards of the land, to build a life-long knowledge and love for native plants and trees in their students and to enhance their learning by creating a native plant interpretive trail for school and public use.

It is projected that 75 students will participate in the project. The trail will be open to the public in the spring of 2016.

The project has received additional funding through grants from a Lowe's Toolbox for Education and the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

Both KNPS through its landscape committee and the University of Idaho's Master Forestry Steward Program have assisted the Southside students.

(Continued from page 1)

Successful generation, large patch openings are desired, ideally 300-500 acres for multiple generations, though the project sites are smaller. Unlike true firs which bear at 30-40 years, WBP bears at 60-80 years. Challenges to survival are the mountain pine beetle and White Pine blister rust, which has eliminated up to 90 percent of WBP populations. The fire cycle is from 120-300 years at high elevations. Fire suppression, climate and temperature change also have affected the natural distribution regime. This restoration project is funded through a grant from the non-profit National Forest Foundation. 2013 work began with surveys on WBP and weeds, as well as other rare plant populations. WBP opportunities were pinpointed as the Forest Service worked in collaboration with other groups, including Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, KNPS, and Idaho Master Naturalists.

Between 2014 and 2015, Forest fuels, botany, and silviculture groups identified project areas and activities and proposed three treatments: burn only, underburn with pull-back and point protection, and slashing of competition (weeds, subalpine fir and Engelmann Spruce).

Though a final decision was hoped for in late summer 2015, wildfires dramatically changed plans. The smoke from the Scotchman Peak fires in the northern Cabinets deterred flights where WBP was being monitored. Short fire runs stemming from the large Blue Creek burn went through proposed project areas. One unit with 20-30 old-growth WBP trees was a complete loss. It is now a planting opportunity. An intermediate zone between two units burned moderately but additional mortality is expected. Trees left with 40 percent crown after burning can survive. However, low-intensity fires on forest duff burned the root collar on trees that probably will not survive. These stressed trees may trigger a spike in bark beetle populations. September monitoring showed pine beetle activity.



More analysis is now needed, but obvious remedies include point protection of remaining stands, planting young seedlings on the upper stand, and possibly prescribed burns during the summer and fall of 2016. Jennifer is applying for grants for cone collection and verbenone application to protect trees from pine beetles. Public support is needed!

2015 Holiday Potluck



Member Profile: Doug Toland

Few of us contemplate more infinite concepts than geologists. They try to visualize processes that take millions of years to achieve in a science that relies on imagination and maybe even faith to grasp. It must feel like tossing stones into a darkened canyon straining to comprehend its depth, and never hearing a faint ... KLINK ...KLINK... KLINK echo in return. We might expect geologists to consider mankind's existence pretty insignificant on such scales - hardly worthy of a thin sediment layer in some future fossil record. However, if you're fortunate enough to know one of our own local rock hounds, you've likely discovered he views the biological anomaly that is Us, at this brief moment in earth's history, a very significant event. Maybe that's why Doug Toland spends so much free time investing in mankind's infinite potential - kids. He truly sees a gem in each and every one!



As a youngster exploring the rural woods near Wilmington, Delaware, Doug grew strong playing Tarzan and Robin Hood, swinging on limbs, dodging tree trunks and neighborhood bullies, and racing through fields and forests. One day when he was five, an oddly shaped object in a nearby field caught his eye, so he squatted down to investigate. He'd discovered his first arrowhead! From that day on he spent lots of time exploring the forest floor, gravel pits and fields for unusual stones. A "rock star" was born.

As the youngest of three boys, Doug learned early how to hold his own, but his athleticism and determination were attributes often hidden behind a shy, awkward and somewhat introverted exterior. As a senior in 1959, his high school assembled its first rag tag wrestling team. Coach Brown saw a diamond in the rough and challenged Doug to keep his grades up and join the squad. Motivated by a strong fear of losing and proving himself to others, Doug tapped into his own infinite potential. He went on to claim an individual state championship in his first year as a grappler, and never once allowed himself to be pinned.

Five days after high school graduation, Doug joined the Navy and spent one tour stationed in Florida before being honorably discharged in 1963. Doug worked hard and was accepted into college knowing only that his interest in science might lead to a career. He pursued a geology/geography degree at the University of Delaware. In the summer of 1967, his mineralogy professor was looking for a strong-backed intern to join an expedition to a remote site on Prince of Wales Island off the Alaskan coast. They would seek the rare and beautiful, dark green mineral, epidote. The obscure location happens to be among the world's best for producing the highest quality epidote crystals. That summer Doug explored the site that would later become a lifelong passion: Green Monster Mountain.

In 1968, Doug married Fran, a college classmate, and in 1970 their son, Drew, was born. Doug gained a master's degree in environmental studies at Montana State University. He also worked for the Forest Service, the Montana Highway Department, and an environmental company in Billings. Driven by his memories of the Green Monster, Doug returned to Alaska in 1975 and soon relocated to Juneau to assume a job with the State. There, in 1977, Doug's family was blessed with their second child, Bonnie. During this time, he formed a mineral exploration partnership with a good friend, Tom Hanna. Their friendship continues today. Tom and Doug obtained the leasing rights to the Green Monster Mountain mine site, and that led to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to purchase the patented claims in 1980.

While mining part-time on the island, Doug continued with the State of Alaska for a total of almost 19 years, inspecting solid and hazardous waste sites and checking water quality around the state. He also inspected mining operations and

(Continued on page 5)

reviewed mine development permits to ensure environmental requirements would be met once operations were underway. Doug worked on such notable projects as the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

A full time career and part time mineral mining venture would be enough for most mortals, however Doug also began volunteering at local schools, developing curriculum, serving as a debate team judge and giving presentations on rocks and geology. During that time, he also met a teacher and fellow volunteer who became, by far, his most cherished treasure, Mary.

Doug and Mary bought their home in Sandpoint during the severe winter of 1996-1997. "The heavy snow reminded us of Juneau, so we felt quite at home wading through waist-deep snow." They moved to Sandpoint in August of 1999 and soon after joined KNPS. Since then they've become such valuable members of our community that it's hard to summarize their contributions. Volunteering at Southside, Sagle, and other schools, Doug and Mary assist with reading programs, conduct class presentations and accompany classes on field trips. For over 10 years, except for two years when they lived in Russia, both have served on Sandpoint's Youth Accountability Board. Through this diversion program, they work with adolescent first-time offenders, helping them learn to make better life decisions while avoiding the criminal justice system and criminal records. Doug is also a member of the Northwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy, volunteers as a Master Forest Steward, and works as a forest interpreter with local scouting groups. As members of KNPS, he and Mary have been hospitality hosts, and both do youth presentations during our annual Arbor Day celebration. Meanwhile, Doug still mounts annual mining expeditions to the Green Monster. His newly unearthed epidote specimens are eagerly sought by collectors worldwide.

More Holiday Potluck Images



KNPS BUSINESS SPONSOR

CEDAR MOUNTAIN PERENNIALS

Specializing in Native Perennials for Inland Northwest Gardens

Visit us at:

- The Kootenai County Farmers Market in Hayden
- The Sandpoint Farmers Market in Farmin Park
- The Nursery by Appointment

7875 E. Highway 54, Athol (208) 683-2387
www.cedarmountainperennials.com



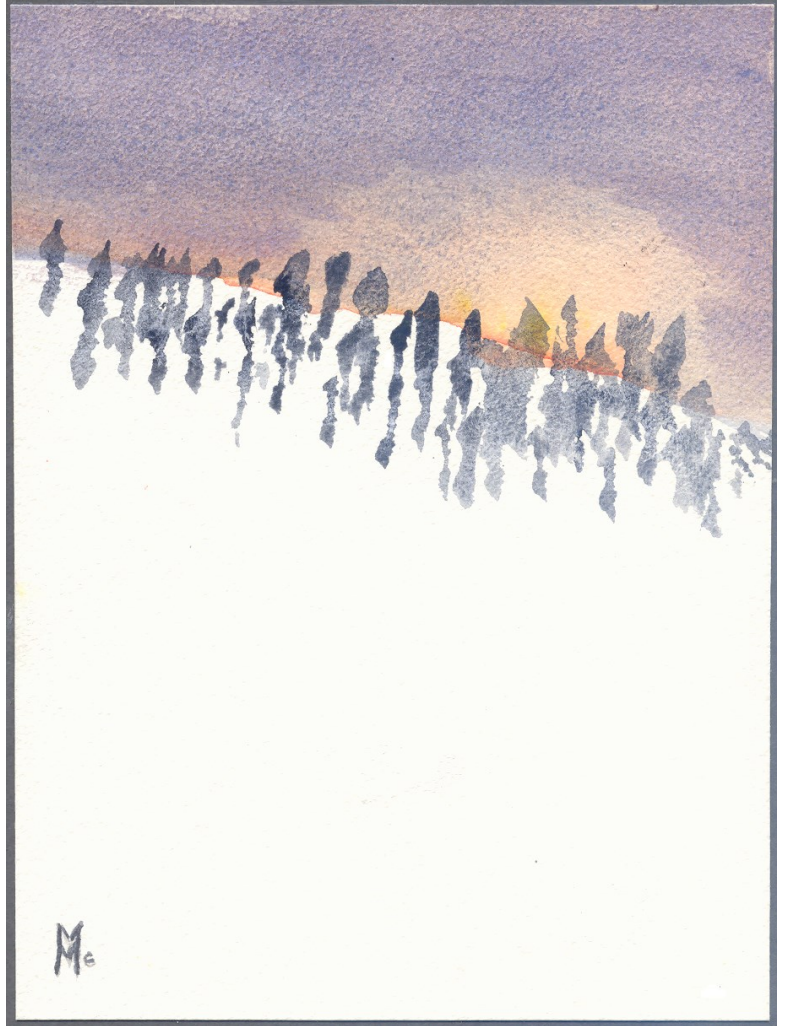
A Voice From the Moist Montane

Notes from the Watershed

“Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.”

As I write in late December, the landscape is one big white pillow punctured only by an occasional limb or the tops of the tall trees. The trees are doing what they do here in the winter, offering food and shelter to the birds and small mammals. The chickadees are the sole hangers on now because we continue to give them black oiled sunflower seeds. One little red squirrel mines the seeds that fall or we occasionally toss out. The Steller’s and Canada gray jays are barred from our seed feeder, they do love the suet we put out, but they are seeking more substantial food elsewhere. There is a young momma moose and her baby down by the main creek crossing. The snow is very powdery and non-packable, which reminds me of the stories of the winter of 78/79 when it snowed so much powder that the family living on this land had to flee, leaving everything behind.

Our founder and mentor Lois Wyeth knew that there is no time like the present to build and nurture strength through connection and education in our local watershed community. Bill McKibben, the climate change activist (350.org) says in his book “Oil and Honey”: “When people ask me where they should move to be safe from climate change I always tell them anyplace with a strong community. Neighbors were optional in the last 50 years, but they’ll be essential in the decades to come.” Our neighbors are few up here but they are ready to help at any time.



I love to think of the snow piling up in the High Country, ready to store water for next summer. I am relieved that most of the predictions for the Big El Nino that put us in the warmer and drier category did not materialize. But then North Idaho is always a bit un-predictable.

Tip: If you find yourself in Spokane, try to make time for a “magic carpet ride” on the colors and scents of the flowers in the Manito Park Conservatory greenhouses. It is an inexpensive way to be back in Mexico or San Diego or Hawaii, if just for a few moments.

May the New Year be full of deepening understandings of Wild Nature.

African proverb: “If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven’t spent the night with a mosquito.”

Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre
